

Amendments to the Specification

Page 5, lines 16-26, please amend the paragraph as follows:

Figs. 17A and 17B are diagrams for explaining the above-mentioned prior art handoff method. In the figures, reference numeral 111-1 denotes a foreign agent (FA) from which an ME 102 is moving, and numeral ~~112-1~~111-2 denotes a foreign agent (FA) to which the ME 102 is moving. The other components of Fig. 17A are the same as those shown in Fig. 16A. In accordance with the handoff method disclosed in the Internet draft (draft-mkhalil-mobileip-buffer-00.txt), the ME detects a handoff. Hereafter, assume that 25 FAs can detect a handoff according to the other Internet draft (draft-elmalki-soliman-hmipv4v6-00.txt).

Page 25, line 29 through page 26, line 5, please amend the paragraph as follows:

A handoff method according to a fourth embodiment of the present invention determines whether an IP packet destined for an ME 2 is of real-time traffic or of non-real-time traffic by determining a Differentiated Service Code Point DSCP value placed, as an attribute of the IP packet, in a DS field region of an IP header of the IP packet by using either an HA 3 or 41, as shown in Fig. 1A or 4A, or a GFA 21, as shown in Fig. 3.

Page 29, line 13 through page 30, line 11, please amend the paragraph as follows:

Fig. 10 is a diagram showing one example of a cellular phone network in accordance with the Radio Access Network standard of 3GPP, which can perform mobile IP procedures, and which implements a handoff method according to a sixth embodiment of the present invention. In Fig. 10, reference numerals 81, 81-1, and 81-2 denote radio network control units (RNC) each of which has a function of serving as a foreign agent, and each of which gives and receives an authority to control a cellular phone 83 as a handoff according to ~~an a~~ Serving Radio Network Subsystem SRNS SRNC-relocation procedure. In addition, the RNC

81 is the one which accommodates a cellular phone 84 that is the party on the other end of the communication with the cellular phone 83. The RNC 81-1 is the one from which the cellular phone 83 is moving. The RNC 81-2 is the one to which the cellular phone 83 is moving. Reference numeral 82 denotes a base station that performs communication by radio between the RNC-81 and cellular phones accommodated by the RNC 81, numeral 82-1 denotes a base station that performs communication by radio between the RNC 81-1 and cellular phones accommodated by the RNC 81-1, and numeral 82-2 denotes a base station that performs communication by radio between the RNC 81-2 and cellular phones accommodated by the RNC 81-2. Each of the cellular phones (ME) 83 and 84 can serve as mobile terminal equipment. It is assumed that neither of the RNCs 81-1 and 81-2 included in the network has a soft handover function. The explanation about the other components of Fig. 10 will be omitted hereafter because they are the same as those of the first embodiment as shown in Fig. 1A.

Page 30, lines 12-20, please amend the paragraph as follows:

Next, a handoff of the ME 83 in the mobile IP network will be explained. Hereafter, assume that the ME 83 is moving from the RNC 81-1 to the RNC 81-2 so that the ME will be accommodated by the RNC 81-2. At this time, an authority to control the ME 83 is transferred from the base station 82-1 to the base station 82-2 connected to the RNC 81-2 according to an ~~SRNC~~ SRNC relocation procedure. Fig. 11 is a sequence diagram for explaining a handover of the ME 83 in the cellular phone network of Fig. 10.

Page 32, line 13 through page 33, line 2, please amend the paragraph as follows:

As mentioned above, in accordance with the sixth embodiment of the present invention, there is provided a cellular phone system including a cellular phone network

disposed as a mobile IP network, which complies with the Radio Access Network standard of 3GPP and which can perform mobile IP procedures, a cellular phone 83 disposed as mobile terminal equipment, and radio network control units 81-1 and 81-2, disposed as foreign agents, which gives and receives an authority to control the cellular phone 83 as a handoff according to an SRNC relocation procedure, the radio network control units 81-1 and 81-2 each being able to detect the start time and end time of a handoff according to the SRNC relocation procedure, and, when the cellular phone 83 can establish communication based on mobile IP, to notify the cellular phone 83 of the start time and end time of the handoff according to a mobile IP procedure. Accordingly, the ~~SRNC~~SRNS relocation procedure is united with the mobile IP handoff procedure, and it is possible to perform a fast handoff and mobile IP can be applied to the cellular phone network.

Page 33, line 22 through page 34 line 2, please amend the paragraph as follows:

In a network as shown in Fig. 10, the RNC 81-1, from which an ME 83 is moving, detects a start of a handover of the ME 83 from the RNC 81-1 to the RNC 81-2, to which the ME is moving, using layer 2 functionality provided by mobile IP, first. When the RNC 81-1, from which the ME 83 is moving, detects a start of a handover, it starts an ~~SRNC~~SRNS relocation procedure as shown in Fig. 12. The RNC 81-1, from which the ME 83 is moving, transmits a relocation request to the RNC 81-2, to which the ME 83 is moving. At this time, a request for an agent advertisement for mobile IP is piggybacked onto the relocation request.

Page 35, lines 2-12, please amend the paragraph as follows:

In a network as shown in Fig. 10, the RNC 81-1, from which the ME 83 is moving, detects a start of a handover of the ME 83 from the RNC 81-1 to the RNC 81-2, to which the ME is moving, using layer 2 functionality provided by mobile IP, first. When the RNC 81-1,

from which the ME 83 is moving, detects a start of a handover, it starts an ~~SRNC~~SRNS relocation procedure as shown in Fig. 13. The RNC 81-1, from which the ME 83 is moving, transmits a relocation request to the RNC 81-2, to which the ME 83 is moving. At this time, a request for an agent advertisement for mobile IP is piggybacked onto the relocation request.

Page 37, lines 12-20, please amend the paragraph as follows:

Next, a handoff of an ME 83 in the mobile IP network will be explained. Hereafter, assume that the ME 83 is moving from the RNC 91-1 to the RNC 91-2 so that the ME will be accommodated by the RNC 91-2. At this time, an authority to control the ME 83 is transferred from a base station 82-1 to a base station 82-2 connected to the RNC 91-2 according to an ~~SRNC~~SRNS relocation procedure. Fig. 15 is a sequence diagram for explaining a handover of the ME 83 in the cellular phone network of Fig. 14.

Page 38, lines 13-24, please amend the paragraph as follows:

As mentioned above, in accordance with the ninth embodiment of the present invention, after the plurality of radio network control units 91-1 and 91-2 have accommodated the same cellular phone 83, the previous radio network control unit 91-1 can assume that an ~~SRNC~~SRNS relocation procedure generated after a predetermined transfer of an authority to control the cellular phone 83 is a handoff procedure so as to detect the start time and end time of a handoff. Accordingly, a handoff can be carried out properly while a soft handover is carried out even when real-time traffic exists together with non-real-time traffic.